REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of the present application. Independent Claims 1, 13, 23, and 27 have been amended to further define over the prior art. Dependent Claims 6, 7, 10, 18, 20, 21, 26, 30, 31, 33, and 34 have been amended for consistency. Independent Claim 17 has been cancelled for consistency. No new matter is being added. The patentability of the claims is discussed below.

I. The Claimed Invention

The invention, as recited in amended independent Claim 1, for example, is directed to a cryptographic device including a cryptographic module and a communications module removably coupled thereto. The cryptographic module includes a first housing, a wired Ethernet user Local Area Network (LAN) interface carried by the first housing, a cryptographic processor carried by the first housing and coupled to the wired Ethernet user LAN interface, and a first connector carried by the first housing and coupled to the cryptographic processor. The communications module includes a second housing, a second connector carried by the second housing and removably mateable with the first connector. The cryptographic processor also includes a network communications interface carried by the second housing and coupled to the first connector.

Amended independent Claim 13 is directed to a corresponding cryptographic device where the communications module includes a network LAN interface, and the communications module includes a predetermined one from among a plurality of

interchangeable communications modules each for communicating over a different communications media.

Amended independent Claim 23 is a method counterpart of independent Claim 1. Amended independent Claim 27 is a system counterpart of independent Claim 1. Independent Claims 13, 23, and 27 have been amended similarly to amended independent Claim 1.

II. The Amended Claims Are Patentable

The Examiner rejected independent Claims 1, 13, 23, and 27 over Dellmo et al. Dellmo et al. is directed to a secure wireless LAN device including a housing, a wireless transceiver carried by the housing, and a cryptography circuit carried by the housing. A media access controller (MAC) is included and implements a predetermined wireless LAN MAC protocol. The cryptography circuit includes a cryptography processor, and a control gateway circuit connected to the MAC and the wireless transceiver. The secure wireless LAN device also includes a user network interface carried by the housing and connected to the MAC.

The Examiner contended that Dellmo et al. discloses a cryptographic module that includes a user network interface carried by the housing and turned to Dellmo et al., paragraph 0034, which is reproduced below for reference, to support his contention.

> [0034] The interface connector 27 may be a PCMCIA connector or other similar connector that can readily interface to a number of possible LAN devices as will be appreciated by those skilled in the art. For example, as shown in FIG. 2, the secure wireless LAN

device 20 may be received in a corresponding PC-card slot in the side of a laptop computer 25. The device 20 may also be received in a PC-card slot of an access point 30 as shown in FIG. 3.

Independent Claims 1, 13, 23, and 27 have been amended to recite the cryptographic module includes a wired Ethernet LAN user interface. Nowhere in Dellmo et al. does it disclose a cryptographic module that includes a wired Ethernet LAN user interface. Instead, as noted above in Dellmo et al., paragraph 0034, and Figures 1 and 3, reproduced below, Dellmo et al. discloses the secure wireless LAN device device 20 (i.e. a Type 2 PC-card) includes a PCMCIA connector 27 at one end of the housing 21 and a pair of antennas 22 for wireless communications at the other end of the housing. (See also Dellmo et al., paragraph 0032).

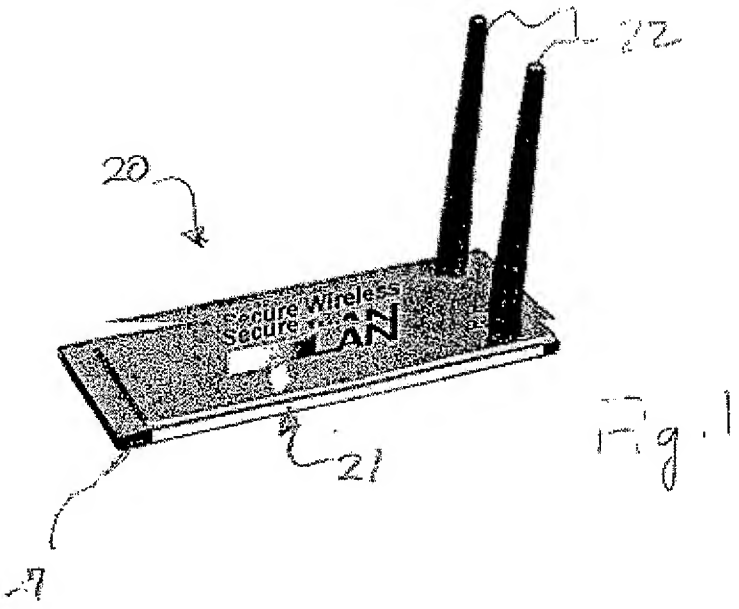


Fig. 1

Figure 1 of the Dellmo '594 Published Application

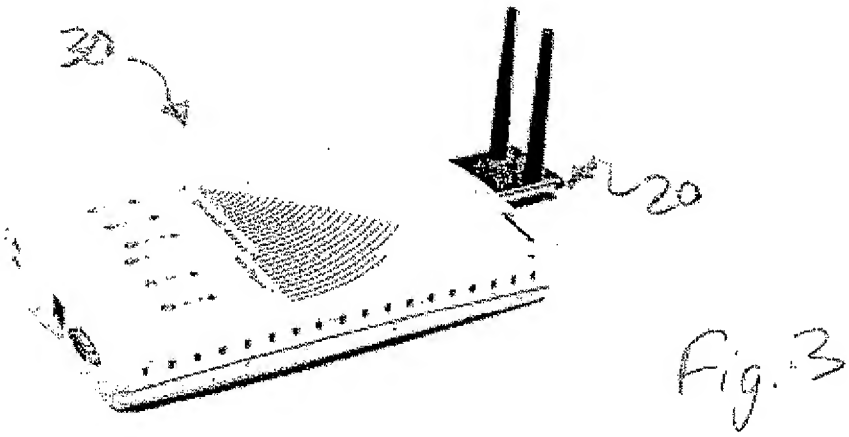


Figure 3 of the Dellmo '594 Published Application

Additionally, the Dellmo et al. PC-card that communicates with an access point using a PCMCIA connector or interface is not a wired Ethernet LAN user interface, as recited in the amended independent claims, as a PC-card or PCMCIA card uses its own protocol, not Ethernet. (See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PC_card).

Indeed, Dellmo et al. discloses the secure wireless LAN device having antennas for wireless communications with other stations using the secure wireless LAN devices. A user station 25 generates unencrypted data. Each user station 25 communicates with the access point 30 via respective secure wireless LAN devices 20. (See Dellmo et al., paragraphs 0035-0036). In other words, the access point (Examiner's contended communications module) communicates with the user station or user network device side, and the secure wireless LAN device (Examiner's contended

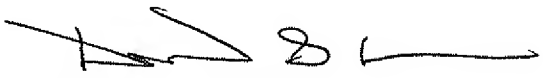
cryptographic module) communicates with a communications network side thereof. This is in stark contrast to the claimed invention.

Accordingly, it is submitted that amended independent Claims 1, 13, 23, and 27 are patentable over the prior art. Their respective dependent claims, which recite yet further distinguishing features, are also patentable over the prior art and require no further discussion herein.

III. Conclusion

In view of the arguments and amendments presented above, it is submitted that all of the claims are patentable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course. If the Examiner determines any remaining informalities exist, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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